



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

**New Jersey Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council
December 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Schreibman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Roll Call – Zachary Raab

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2021 meeting:

- Motion: First: Dr. Wang Second: Mr. Quevedo
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion to accept: Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2021 meeting:

- Motion: First: Dr. Wang Second: Mr. Quevedo
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion to accept: Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

MICU Future Planning Committee

Dr. Schreibman and Dr. Carroll

- Dr. Schreibman thanked Ronald Murphy, Steven Cohen, Dr. Wang, and Dr. Carroll for their help recreating the New Jersey Statewide Protocols.
- Dr. Carroll requested a call for a vote to approve the New Jersey Statewide Protocols to be sent to the New Jersey Department of Health (the Department), Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) for approval.
- Patricia Lutz, Dr. Stiefel, and Andrew Quevedo raised concerns over various treatments and medication dosages.
- Dr. Carroll responded to all concerns.
- Zachary Raab stated that if we add procainamide, we would not be able to vote on the document today because it would be a change. However, we can vote on the document with typographical errors.
 - Dr. Felderman asked questions about how changes can be made to the New Jersey Statewide Protocols going forward.
 - Dr. Schreibman answered the questions that Dr. Felderman had.
- Additional conversation ensued.

- Zachary Raab confirmed the motion for voting on the New Jersey Statewide Protocols document as it was represented at today's meeting to be moved forward to OEMS for review.
 - Motion: First: Dr. Wang Second: Mr. Quevedo
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion to accept: Yea: 14 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 4
- Dr. Schreiberman stated that the following would be discussed in the meeting to be held in three weeks:
 - Use of nasal capnography in the sedated patient.
 - Set heart rate for Transcutaneous Pacing (TCP) (spell out and include abbreviation).
 - Addition of procainamide to standing orders.
 - Discussion of the use of ketamine for use with a patient in acute Congestive Heart Failure (spell out) exacerbation.
- Mark Jeffries asked if the council will also consider the use of oral administration (PO) Decadron for pediatric patients with asthma or croup?
- Dr. Schreiberman asked for thoughts on using PO Decadron for pediatric patients.
 - Discussion ensued for the support with the use in the prehospital setting.

Medication and Therapeutic

Dr. Wang

- No update at this time

New Jersey EMS Council

Dr. Vetrano:

- No report

BLS Subcommittee

Dr. Carroll:

- There has been discussion about requesting a pilot program for the use of supraglottic airways for patients in cardiac arrest by the Basic Life Support (BLS) provider.
 - Discussion ensued.
- The committee wants to support any legislation about EMS as an essential service.
- There is no consensus on the pre-hospital BLS staffing legislative bill.
- The committee is looking at some best practices to handle the increasing wait times at Emergency Departments (ED) and to help transfer patient care from the prehospital provider to the ED staff.
- Dr. Schreiberman noted that she was aware of some systems in Florida that hire paramedics to be stationed in the ED. This allows paramedics to assume care of the patient and enables the prehospital providers the ability to become available. She hopes that is not needed in New Jersey.
- Dr. Carroll stated that he was aware of a case where an ambulance was waiting with a COVID-positive patient for two and a half hours, unable to enter the ED due to the patient's COVID status, and the ambulance was running out of onboard oxygen.

- Open Discussion:
 - None

EMT Training Fund Advisory Council

Steve Cohen:

- Approved the funding of \$15.00 per CEU for the EMS Council of New Jersey Conference.
- Discussion about increasing the funding of EMT Refresher reimbursement and the feasibility.
- Discussion about the Recruitment and Retention Sub-Committee.
- Open Discussion:
 - None

EMS for Children

Dr. Drago

- Dr. Drago was unable to attend. Eric Hicken, EMSC Coordinator, provided the update.

Eric Hicken

- The EMS for Children Advisory Committee Meetings in 2022 will be January 12th, April 7th, September 15th, and December 8th. All meetings will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and will be held virtually.
- 300 to 400 car seats were given out in New Jersey during car seat inspection activities.
- For the first time next year, OEMS will provide child car seats specially designed for use in public transportation vehicles.
- The EMS for Children Grant is being applied for year 5 of this current grant cycle.
- New Jersey has been leading a group with the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) to build a crash sled to test child restraint systems in the patient compartment of an ambulance. The crash sled was tested in August and September of this year to see if it could withstand the forces needed to test the child restraint systems. Testing will continue on currently available devices.
- EMS for Children Program is working with the Improving Pediatric Acute Care Through Simulation (ImpACT) program, through a collaborative effort with Yale University, Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania and Virtua Health to release an EMS version of the ImpACT program in 2022.
- Always Ready for Children program is working to identify hospitals in the Northeast and New England Region that can care for children. This group is looking to categorize hospitals, based on the service they provide to children.
- Looking to have the EMS for Children newsletter return in 2022.
- Open Discussion:
 - Dr. Stiefel asked if Eric Hicken meant to say designate levels for hospitals, based on the services they provide and not categorize.
 - Eric Hicken confirmed that to be correct.

New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs

Mark Bober:

- Spoke about increased wait times for prehospital providers at ED. In Texas, especially in the Houston area, the wait times are greater than 2 hours. This is something they will continue to look at.
- The association has been monitoring the legislative items that would affect EMS.
- The association continues to work on ensuring flexibility of staffing while ensuring safeguards are in place to ensure the quality of care.
- A study was completed among their member programs looking at vacancy rates within their departments. Vacancy rates are approximately 10% to 20% across all levels of care and services.
- Leading Edge 2021 is still being worked on. Leading Edge 2022 will be moved back to a Springtime conference.
- Open Discussion:
 - None

Education Committee

Steven Cohen

- Worked on some standards and new material.
- Discussion about medication and equipment shortages.

JEMSTAR

Dr. Carroll:

- The next meeting is scheduled for this afternoon.
 - Dr. Schreiberman asked if Dr. Carroll knew how many requests for Air Medical are made yearly and monthly.
 - Dr. Carroll stated that he did not have that data at this time.
 - Eric Hicken and Dr. Satty both stated that the REMS Communication Center has that data if anyone wants it.

New Jersey EMS Task Force

Andy Lovell:

- Andy Lovell was unable to attend, but sent the EMS Task Force report.
- The New Jersey EMS Task Force continues to help the Department with the vaccine re-distribution efforts throughout New Jersey.
- Continue to work with Visiting Nurses Association of New Jersey to provide vaccine access to the underserved and limited mobility population.
- They will be adding a fourth State Planner position soon.
- Awaiting information from the American Plan submission for replacement and upgrading of equipment to be used for large-scale incidents.

OEMS

Dr. Clancy:

- Changes within OEMS – Candace Gardner was promoted to Program Manager within OEMS. The three sections within OEMS – Data & Intelligence, Licensing & Enforcement and Education & Certification report directly to her. With her promotion, Dan Kazar is now the Acting Chief of Education & Certification and will now represent Education on the Council. As he is now an ex-officio member, Robert Karch, a new OEMS staff member will be the liaison to the council.

- The Department has opened three megasites to increase pediatric and vaccine booster uptake. The megasites are in Gloucester, Burlington and Somerset. We are in the process of opening up a fourth in NJ.
- Renewals for M-Z are due by the end of December. If you have not received a notice, this could be a result of you not updating your account properly. Contact the OEMS Licensing team as soon as possible to avoid delaying your renewal. There is a fee for all late renewals between January 1 and 10. If not renewed by January 10 a new application for licensure will need to be submitted.
- Information in many of the LMS accounts remains incomplete. It is critical that you update your licensing account to be sure you receive critical updates such as licensure renewal notices.
- Vehicle annual inspections are resuming. Please contact the licensing team to get your vehicles scheduled. If you have more than 5 vehicles the inspection will be conducted at your location of the record. All inspections are now conducted in Mansfield (Burlington County).
- Chris Tams is out of the office until the first week of January. Until he returns please do not hesitate to reach out to Lisa Kahle.
- On the licensing login page, the contact information has been added to assist everyone in contacting licensing.
- Unusual Occurrences for AMU, BLS, MICU, SCTU, and AMU are all submitted by signing into your agency account. It is no longer on the Department's website. This does not include Unusual Occurrences for Educational issues.
- All Medical Directors should have an account in the LMS. This will allow for agencies to simply add their Medical Director contact information to their license. This also provides fraud protection to the Medical Directors. Every Medical Director will be able to view each agency that enters them as the agency Medical Director.
- Reminder all charts need to be completed and locked within 24 hours. The OEMS will be conducting random electronic audits in early 2022.
- Be vigilant and continue to wear your PPE.
- OEMS will be involved with hospital expansion and setting up of field hospitals if needed going forward.
- BOOST NJ will be this Wednesday. It is an initiative by the Governor to get New Jerseyans booster vaccines for COVID-19.
- Open Discussion:
 - Dr. Schreibman asked what the process is now that the New Jersey Statewide Protocols document has been approved by this council and is to be sent to OEMS? What are the next steps for OEMS to approve it and for prehospital providers to use it? Also, will a yearly change by this council make sense?
 - Dr. Clancy stated that the implementation of the protocols cannot be done until the current regulations are revised. Which is something OEMS is in the process of completing. Once they are completed the regulations will then go to the Department's legal office and then through the legal process of being adopted. Additionally, a special meeting in two weeks is not necessary, because OEMS will tell you when no more changes can be made

which will happen when the New Jersey Statewide Protocols are adopted by regulation. A yearly change or a bi-yearly change to the New Jersey Statewide Protocols will be fine and changes to the New Jersey Statewide Protocols should be quicker than changing regulations.

- Dr. Felderman asked if the council wanted to add a protocol or medications would that be something the council could recommend and then, reviewed by OEMS for approval to be added to the New Jersey Statewide Protocols?
 - Dr. Clancy responded that the intent is to have the protocols live outside of the regulations and which will allow them to change quickly to keep up with changes in medicine and current medical practices.
- James Warin asked about the waivers that are set to expire next month regarding staff and vaccinations by paramedics.
 - Dr. Clancy stated that the Department is looking at the waivers and the impact they are having on the industry. However, as of the date of this council meeting, they will expire on January 11, 2022. If there are any changes industry will be made aware.
- General Conversation ensued.

OEMS Education Report

Daniel Kazar

- There are no extensions for the December 31, 2021, or the June 30, 2022, expiration dates.
- Do not renew unless you have met the requirements.
- The next elective training for CEUs is December 15, 2021.
- All applications for elective training must be submitted at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date of the scheduled program. Once the application has been approved the date cannot be changed.
- Victoria Holmes will be overseeing the process of approving educational classes.
- In 2021, OEMS conducted seven (7) screenings for EMT-Instructors and to date twenty-one (21) EMT-Instructor certifications have been issued, thirty-four (34) candidates are in the process, and six (6) candidates have completed all requirements just waiting on the completion of additional contact hours.
- The next screening will be in Bergen County, East Brunswick, NJ, and Gloucester County will begin in February 2022.
- In 2022 virtual meetings will be scheduled for the EMT and Paramedic Education Programs Coordinators. The dates will be announced at a later time.
- Robert Krach will be overseeing the EMT reciprocity applications and Daniel Kazar will be overseeing the Paramedic reciprocity and Paramedic status change applications.
- Open Discussion:
 - Andrew Quevedo asked about extension dates of PHTLS or ITLS and will OEMS accept the extension.
 - Daniel Kazar stated that he is aware that AHA released an extension, but he was not aware of an extension issued by NAEMT. He asked

that Andrew Quevedo send him a copy of the letter with the extension notice.

Election Committee

Dr. Wang

- Nominees are:
 - Chairperson
 - Dr. Schreibman
 - Vice-Chairperson
 - Dr. Carroll
 - Operations Executive Council Person
 - Thomas Lavagna
 - Clinical Executive Council Person
 - Steven Cohen
- All candidates are unopposed.
 - As per the Bylaws when only one individual is running for office, the Secretary is to cast a single ballot and elect that nominee to office.
 - Motion: First: Dr. Stiefel, Second: Dr. Felderman
- 2022 New Jersey State Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council Officers are:
 - Chairperson
 - Dr. Schreibman
 - Vice-Chairperson
 - Dr. Carroll
 - Operations Executive Council Person
 - Thomas Lavagna
 - Clinical Executive Council Person
 - Steven Cohen

New Business

- Dr. Schreibman spoke about New Jersey Senate Bill S4235.
 - Open discussion ensued.
 - Many individuals spoke in opposition to the bill.
 - Dr. Schreibman spoke about the possibility of drafting a letter on behalf and this Council against this bill.
 - Dr. Clancy asked that if this Council writes a letter it should come to her first and she will ensure that it goes through the proper channels.
- Dr. Stiefel spoke about a Legislative Bill (unknown bill number), that would allow changing to staff on prehospital licensed units and that Bill should be endorsed by this Council. This will would allow the current staffing requirements, authorized in the current waivers to continue for another year.
 - Open discussion ensued.
- Trinitas EMS/MICU will be going out of service starting January 1, 2022, and will be merging with RWJ Health Network.
- Dr. Schreibman stated that in the EMS Council meeting there was a discussion about creating legislation to declare EMS as an essential service and reaching out to legislators about this matter.

- Open discussion ensued for this Council to send a letter to legislative groups about this matter. All comments were for this Council to draft a letter to be sent to legislative groups.
- Dr. Felderman asked if we are still going to have a special meeting in three weeks.
 - Dr. Schreiberman stated that we would have a meeting in three weeks to go over updates for the New Jersey Statewide Protocols.
- Dr. Clancy reminded everyone that starting January 1, 2022, this Council will need to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, c. 231, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.). Section 2 of this Council's bylaws will need to be updated to comply with this law.
- Dr. Stiefel asked in the case of an emergency does this Council need to comply with Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, c. 231, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.)?
 - Dr. Clancy stated that she will need to check with the Department's Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance.

Motion to adjourn: First: Dr. Stiefel Second: Dr. Wang

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting: March 14, 2022.